Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (previously amended) An apparatus for dispensing at least one material to a periodontal pocket comprising:

a barrel including a body portion and a tube portion, the tube portion extending from the body portion and including a tip configured for being deformed to at least one cross-sectional geometry different from its initial cross-sectional geometry;

a plunger, at least a portion of the plunger slidably housed within the barrel, the plunger configured for contacting a portion of an external force applying member; and

a quantity of dry particles, at least a portion of the dry particles within the tip.

2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the dry particles comprise at least one therapeutic agent.

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the dry particles comprise an effective amount of the at least one therapeutic agent, the therapeutic agent dispersed in a dry matrix comprising a biocompatible and biodegradable polymer.

4. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of an antibacterial, an antibiotic, an antifungal agent, an anti-inflammatory agent, an immunosuppressive agent, an immunostimulatory agent, a dentinal desensitizer, an odor masking agent, an immune reagent, an anesthetic, and antiseptic, a nutritional agent, an antioxidant, a lipopolysaccharide complexing agent, a peroxide, a tissue growth factor and mixtures thereof.

5. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the therapeutic agent has antibiotic activity.

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the therapeutic agent comprises an antibiotic selected from the group consisting of a tetracycline, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of a tetracycline, hydrates of a tetracycline and hydrates of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of a tetracycline.

7. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the therapeutic agent comprises a tetracycline selected from the group consisting of doxycycline, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of doxycycline, hydrates of doxycycline and hydrates of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of doxycycline.

8. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the therapeutic agent comprises a tetracycline selected from the group consisting of minocycline, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of minocycline, hydrates of minocycline and hydrates of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of minocycline.

9. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the therapeutic agent comprises from about 0.00001 to about 50 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the particles.

10. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyglycolide, poly(1-lactide), poly (dl-lactide), poly-(glycolide-co-lactide), ploy-glycolide-co-dl-lactide), poly-(alpha hydroxybutyric acid), poly(orthesters), poly-(p-dioxanone) and mixtures thereof.

11. (original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the polymer comprises a block copolymer of polyglycolide, trimethylene carbonate and polyethylene oxide.

12. (original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the polymer becomes tacky upon contact with water.

13. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the particles have a diameter of from about 0.1 to about 1000 microns.

14. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the particles have a diameter of from about 10 to about 200 microns.

15. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the particles have a diameter of from about 30 to about 120 microns.

16. (original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the therapeutic agent comprises from about 1 to about 50 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the particles.

17. (original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the therapeutic agent comprises from about 5 to about 40 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the particles.

18 (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the barrel comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of olefin homopolymers, olefin copolymers and mixture thereof.

19 (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plunger comprises of polymer selected from the group consisting of olefin homopolymers, olefin copolymers and polycarbonates.

20. (original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the olefin homopolymer or copolymer comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyethylene and polypropylene.

21. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the at least one therapeutic agent includes minocycline hydrochloride.

22. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the body portion includes flexible flanges for forming a temporary locking engagement with at least a portion of an external force applying member.

23. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the body portion includes at least one nub for receipt in a correspondingly configured indent in at least a portion of an external force applying member to prevent the barrel from rotating.

24. (original) The apparatus of claim 23, additionally comprising:

an external force applying member.

25. (original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the external force applying member includes a handle.

26. (previously amended) The apparatus of Claim 25, wherein the handle includes:

a sleeve including an indent for engaging the at least one nub; and

a spring-loaded shaft housed at least partially within the sleeve;

the sleeve and the shaft configured to engage at least a portion of each of the flexible flanges of the body portion of the barrel.

27. (original) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the spring-loaded shaft includes:

a proximal end and a distal end; and

a thumb ring at the proximal end.

28 (original) The apparatus of claim 1 additionally comprising:

a removable closure configured for covering at least a portion of the tip to maintain the integrity of the dry particles.

29. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, enclosed in a package.

30. (original) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the package comprises an aluminum-laminated pouch.

31. (original) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the package is resealable.

32. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, enclosed in a sterilizable package.

33. (original) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the sterilizable package comprises an aluminum-laminated pouch.

34. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the barrel and the plunger are formed of radiation sterilizable materials.

35. (previously amended) An apparatus for dispensing material comprising:

a barrel including a body portion and a tube portion, the tube portion extending from the body portion and including a tip configured for being deformed to at least one cross-sectional geometry different from its initial cross-sectional geometry; and

a plunger, at least a portion of the plunger slidably housed within the barrel, the plunger configured for contacting a portion of an external force applying member.

36 (original) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the body portion includes flexible flanges for forming a temporary blocking engagement with at least a portion of an external force applying member.

37. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the body portion includes at least one nub for receipt in a correspondingly configured indent in at least a portion of an external force applying member to prevent the barrel from rotating.

38. (original) The apparatus of claim 36, additionally comprising:

an external force applying member.

39. (original) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the external force applying member includes a handle.

40. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the handle includes:

a sleeve including an indent for engaging the at least one nub; and

a spring-loaded shaft housed at least partially within the sleeve;

the sleeve and the shaft configured to engage at least a portion of each of the flexible flanges of the body portion of the barrel.

41. (original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the spring-loaded shaft includes:

a proximal end and a distal end; and

a thumb ring at the proximal end.

42-46. (previously canceled).

47. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one cross-sectional geometry is oval and the initial cross-section geometry is circular.

48. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the at least one cross-sectional geometry is oval and the initial cross-sectional geometry is circular.